



SHROPSHIRE

Fire and Rescue Service

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BRIGADE ORDER TECHNICAL NO. 9

PART 5

HAND-HELD RADIO HELMET MOUNTED, COMMUNICATION S SYSTEM

Reference

Author

Status

Date

TECH9PT5

D Groucott

New - 2

12/06

PART 5 – HAND-HELD RADIO, HELMET MOUNTED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

PURPOSE

To provide users with technical information and guidance in the use of a helmet mounted communications system used with hand-held radios.

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Strategic Aim 3 - “Secure the highest level of safety and welfare for all staff by providing effective supervision, training, equipment and systems of work.”

Corporate Objective 9 - “Ensure the provision and availability of appropriate equipment, resources and supplier support.”

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW

The **Information Manager** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

The **Watch Managers and Station Managers** will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Communications Manager** will review this Order biennially in **December** and as and when organisational changes take place.

REASON FOR ISSUE

Review of existing equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adaptation/modification of existing equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initial issue of equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other: Review of document	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTRODUCTION

The helmet mounted communications system allows the wearer to have hands free operation of the fire ground radio. The unit consists of two connecting parts, the helmet unit and the coms. control unit.



The helmet unit ① consists of :-

- 2 bone microphone
- 3 speaker
- 4 detachable arm
- 5 flexible strap
- 10 quick release connector plug

The coms. control unit ⑥ consists of :-

- 7 radio interconnection cable
- 8 push to talk (PTT) button
- 9 quick release connector socket

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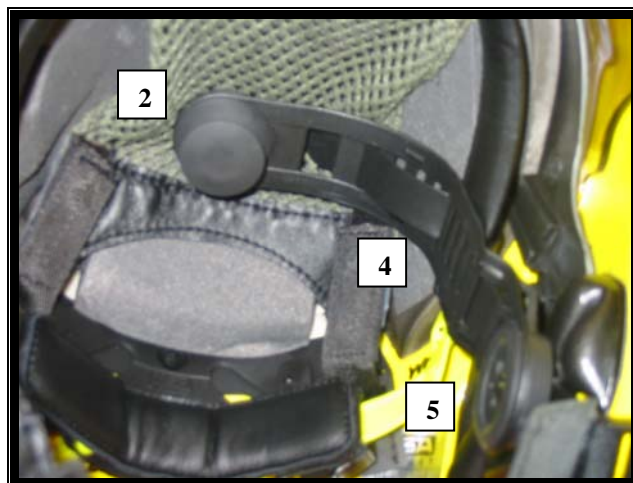
CRITICAL INFORMATION

Installation of the Helmet Unit into the Helmet

- The left hand side of the helmet should be used on which to mount the ear speaker (3).



- Push the flexible strap (5) behind the headband of the helmet and when the unit is positioned, weave the flexible strap through an appropriate slot in the detachable arm (4).



- It is important that when the helmet is worn, the positioning slot used keeps the helmet on the head and the speaker positioned on the ear. If maximum comfort is not achieved, reposition the unit by using a different slot.
- The bone microphone (2) may be positioned almost anywhere within the helmet as long as it is in direct contact with the skull. Thick hair or a flash hood will not affect it's function.
- Loosen the headband of the helmet before putting on and then readjust when on. Once the helmet is on the helmet unit will be held in place by the wearers head.
- The helmet unit should be removed from the helmet when radio communication is not required.
- To remove, pull the strap back through the slot in the helmet unit arm and carefully remove the unit from the helmet.
- **The speaker and microphone are sensitive components and should be handled with care.**

Connection to the Coms. Control Unit

- Connect the interconnection cable (7) of the coms. control unit to the auxiliary socket of the radio.
- Connect the quick release connector plug (10) of the helmet unit into the quick release connector socket (9) of the coms. control unit.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Usage

- Ensure that the battery on the hand held radio is fully charged.
- Switch the hand held radio to ON.
- Put helmet on and adjust to achieve a comfortable fit of the helmet together with the helmet unit.
- Press the push-to-talk button and check that two-way radio communication is working.
- Adjust the VOLUME control of the speaker to a suitable level.
- Put the radio into the lower inside pocket of the fire tunic and the coms. control unit into the upper inside pocket of the fire tunic **with the PTT button facing out.**

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Radio pack

Press to talk

- Close fastenings on the fire tunic, ensuring that the cable from the PTT to the helmet unit is comfortable and free moving.



- **Users should be aware that when the comms control unit is connected to the radio, normal operations of the radio will cease and if the user removes their helmet, they will lose their communications facility. It should also be noted that the radio speaker will be disabled when the comms system is connected so that only those wearing comms sets will hear radio messages. This is particularly important to BA teams.**

Location

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Each hand-held radio will be equipped with a helmet unit and coms. control unit. When not in use the comms. Control units should be kept in a spare BA face mask bag and stowed on the overhead shelf at the rear of the crew cab.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Cleaning and Maintenance

The unit may be cleaned using a wet sponge or soft brush with some diluted washing-up liquid.

The contacts may be cleaned by a **light** application of WD40 or similar.

CAUTION: Do not apply solvents or caustic chemicals.

Should any defects develop, the unit should be returned to Technical Services. There are no user serviceable parts.